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Wake County, North Carolina

" Exposition Committee

1884

map fragment

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WAKE COUNTY,

NORTH CAROLINA.

Its Resources, Its Products,

AND

ITS PEOPLE.

PREPARED UNDER DIRECTION OF ITS EXPOSITION COMMITTEE.

RALEIGH, N. C.:
EDWARDS, BROUGHTON & CO., STEAM POWER PRINTERS AND BINDERS.
1884.

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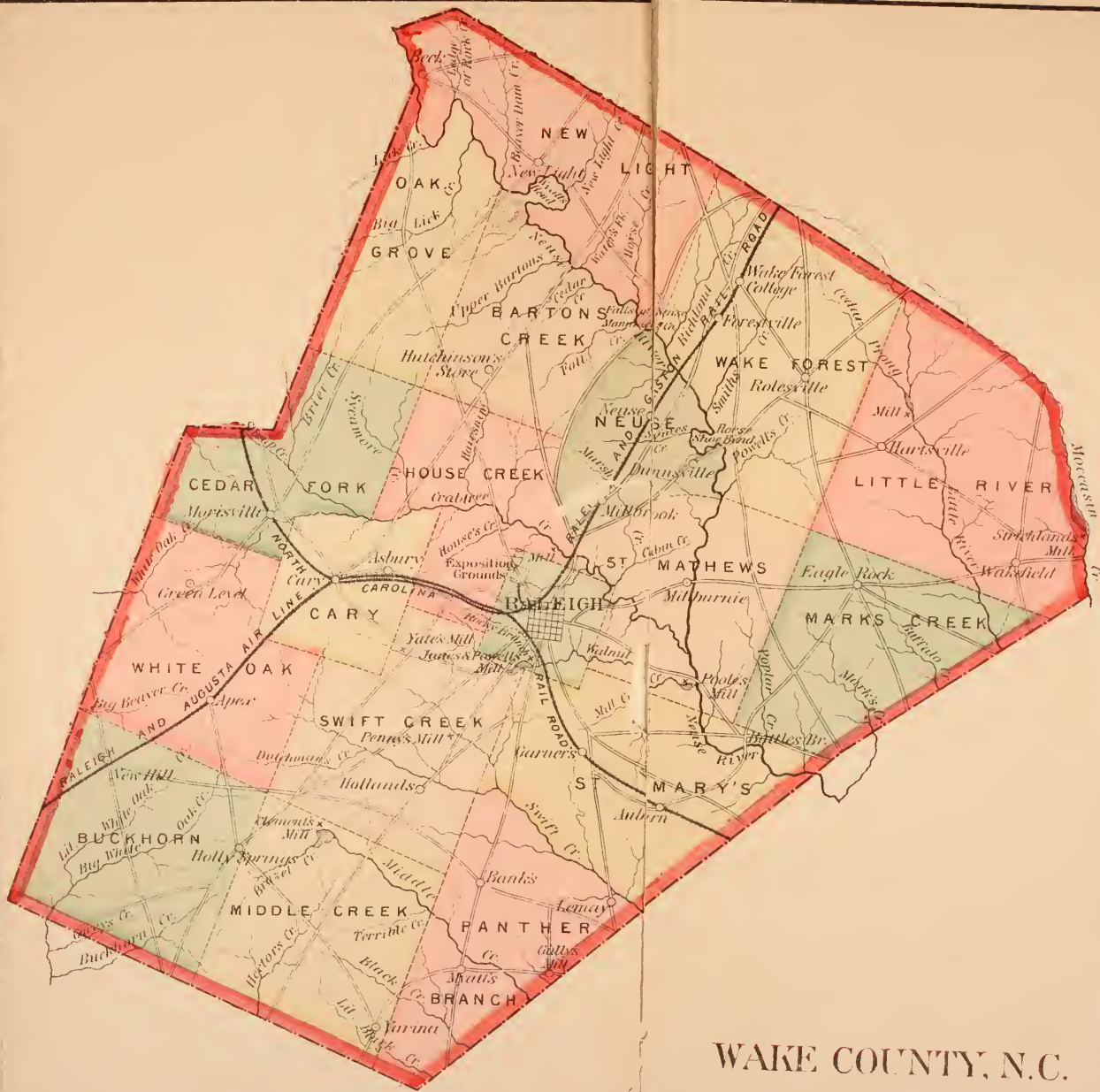
NEW
New Light
Upper Bartons
BARTONS
CREEK
Fall
Neuse
SE CREEK
Exposition Grounds
RALEIGH
Walnut
RAIL ROAD
Garner's
Swift Cr.
Banks
Lemay
PANTHER
Gully's Mill



WAKE COUNTY, N.C.

(From advance sheets of Shaffer's Township, School and Business Map of North Carolina.)

Scale 7 miles = 1 inch

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WAKE COUNTY

Was established in 1770. It was named in honor of the Wake family, of which the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Wake, was the head, and into which family the then Governor of North Carolina, William Tryon, had married.

It was erected out of parts of Orange, Johnston and Cumberland counties, and is centrally located between the Alleghany mountains and the Atlantic ocean. It has an area of 856 square miles, and contains a population of near 50,000.

COUNTY SEAT, &c.

Raleigh, the County seat, was chartered and declared the seat of the State government in 1792. It is named in honor of Sir Walter Raleigh, the English statesman who fitted out the first expedition which landed on the shores of North Carolina.

It stands upon a group of hills, shedding naturally in all directions from the centre, at an elevation of 365 feet above tide water, and is one of the most healthful cities in the Union.

Raleigh, with its suburbs, has a population of 14,000, and is rapidly increasing in wealth and numbers. Her broad

streets, beautiful residences and overarching elms constitute one of the finest cities of the South.

As many as 75,000 bales of Cotton have been handled here in one season, and her business men, merchants and mechanics are noted for enterprise, intelligence and integrity.

Raleigh has three National Banks, representing nearly $700,000 of capital, all in sound condition.

SURFACE, SOIL, &c.

Wake county has a surface moderately rolling and hilly, descending towards the Southeast. Its soil is composed largely of clay—red, brown and yellow—interspersed and underlaid with calcareous stone, sand and mica.

The soil of the bottom land varies from pipe clay to rich loam and sand, easy of cultivation, and more productive than that of the hills. These are pre-eminently the corn producing lands of the county.

FARMS AND FARM PRODUCTS.

Wake county has, according to the census of 1880, 4,381 farms, embracing 161,272 acres of improved and 316,814 acres of forest land, valued at $4,500,000. The value of farm implements was $200,371, and live stock $581,646.

The cost of building and repairing fences is $63,134 per annum, and the cost of fertilizers used is placed at $143,749.

Its farm products are valued at $2,044,397 per annum, and consist of cotton, Indian corn, tobacco, wheat, oats, rye, potatoes, &c.

According to the last census there were raised in 1879 in Wake county, 612,869 bushels of Indian corn; 98,962 bushels of oats; 72,341 bushels of wheat; 11,090 bushels of rye; 155,260 bushels of sweet potatoes, and 30,115 bales of cotton. Its tobacco crop was in that year 94,354 pounds, but one well acquainted with the subject estimates the the tobacco crop of Wake county in 1884 at 720,000 pounds.

It also produces per annum about 14,000 pounds of wool, and 178,246 pounds of butter. Cabbage, turnips, beets, pease, beans, onions, peanuts, &c., grow well in all parts of the county.

PRICE OF LAND,

Farm lands range in value from $8 to $40 per acre, according to soil, improvements and location.

GOLD LEAF TOBACCO.

It has been recently demonstrated that Wake county lands are well adapted to the growth of the celebrated gold leaf tobacco, and fields heretofore devoted to cotton are now planted in tobacco. Barns for curing purposes are being built in nearly every portion of the county, and hundreds

of our planters are directing their thoughts to this new industry. Warehouses for the sale of the weed are being erected at Raleigh, and many are looking to this point as a leading tobacco market.

LABOR, &c.

Laborers are plentiful, and farm hands can be had at almost all seasons of the year at from $8 to $10 per month and board. Domestic servants can be had from $5 to $10 per month and board.

IMPROVED STOCK, &c.

Thoroughbred Jersey cattle have been introduced into the county during the past ten years, with great benefit and satisfaction.

Sheep are self-supporting, free from disease and productive.

ORCHARD PRODUCTS, &c.

The soil and climate of Wake county are well adapted to the growth of apples, peaches, pears, grapes, melons, and berries, and all other small fruits. Nearly every farmer has

a few fruit trees, and a number have large and well cultivated orchards. The value of its orchard products per annum is $20,386.

Strawberries, blackberries and huckleberries grow wild all over the county, and when cultivated yield handsomely.

The fox grape, muscadine and forest grapes grow wild, while the improved varieties mature well, and yield abundantly and are unsurpassed in flavor. There are a number of vineyards in the county, producing many thousand pounds of grapes and gallons of first quality of wine annually. The choicest grapes are nearly all shipped to the northern cities, where they find ready sale at good prices, ripening much earlier than those grown in higher latitudes. The later pickings are manufactured into wine. No disease or insect affects vine or fruit, and a failure of our grape crop is unknown.

WOOD, TIMBERS, &c.

More than one-half of Wake county is in original forests, or second growth pines. Wood for fuel is everywhere abundant, and except in the towns and villages, is without commercial value. In the city of Raleigh it is sold at from $2.50 to $3 per cord.

We have an abundance of yellow pine for building purposes, which is sawed and delivered at our railroad depots at from $8 to $10 per thousand feet.

We also have hickory, oak, ash, walnut, poplar and maple, dogwood, persimmon, beech, gum, &c.

There are 31 saw mills in the county.

We quote the following from "The Woods and Timbers of North Carolina," viz :

"A greater variety of timber trees are to be found in Wake than in any other county in the State. In point of value the long-leaf pine comes first, covering at least one-third of the area of the county, and extending from the Johnston to the Chatham line, and from Harnett to within three miles of the city of Raleigh. Short-leaf pine is the prevailing growth in nearly every other part of the county. Cedar pine grows on Buffalo Creek, and cypress and juniper abound on Little River, Buffalo and Moccasin. Sycamore, walnut, oak and hickory are the spontaneous growth of all parts of the county. Every known variety of oak is to be found in its borders. Large white oaks, suitable for ship building, are abundant on all the tributaries of the Cape Fear and the Haw."

STREAMS, WATER POWERS, &c.

As will be seen by reference to the map of the county appended, Wake county is traversed by numerous bold and living streams, shedding their waters to the southeast. Chief among these are Neuse and Little rivers, and Crabtree, Swift, Middle, White Oak, Buckhorn, Walnut, Marsh, Buffalo, Big Lick, Barton's, Moccasin and Mark's creeks.

These streams furnish a large number of excellent mill-sites, with ample water-power for factories, &c.

There are no less than seventy corn and flour mills in Wake county, besides numerous cotton gins, &c., propelled by water-power.

Choice varieties of fish abound in all of our streams and ponds, and some attention is being paid to fish culture.

CHURCHES.

There are in Wake county 78 churches for the whites, and perhaps an equal number for the colored. Of the churches for the whites 42 are of the Baptist denomination ; 18 Methodist ; 11 Christian ; 3 Episcopal ; 2 Presbyterian ; 1 Catholic ; 1 Jewish.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

The Baptists have a male College (Wake Forest) with over 100 students and an endowment of more than $100,000.

The Presbyterians have a Female College (Peace Institute) with 160 pupils.

The Episcopalians have a Female College (St. Mary's) with 100 pupils.

Messrs. Fray & Morson have a flourishing Male Academy in Raleigh with over 100 pupils.

The Centennial Graded School has 11 teachers and from 500 to 700 pupils per annum. Admission to this school is free to all white persons between the ages of 6 and 21 years residing in Raleigh Township.

There are many excellent private schools and academies throughout the county.

There are also in every district of every township good public schools open from two to six months each year. Thirty-three hundred and ninety-six white children received instruction in these schools in 1883.

There are also two large colleges (Shaw University and St. Augustine Normal) for the colored, and good graded schools in Raleigh and public schools in every district of every township where colored children receive instruction for a period equal to that of the whites. Fifty-six hundred and eighty-five colored children received instruction in these schools in 1883.

Nearly $30,000 are expended annually for the support of the public schools of Wake county.

The public school property of the county is worth over $30,000.

TAXATION, DEBT, &c.

The usual taxation in Wake county is 66⅔ cents on each $100 valuation of property. In assessing property for taxation, it is put at about two-thirds its real value in town and about one-half in the county. A poll tax of $2 on each male over 21 and under 50 years is collected annually. Seventy-five per cent. of the poll tax is appropriated for the support of the public schools and twenty-five per cent. for the poor.

The debt of the county is about $40,000, mostly contracted for the building of a large and commodious Court House, with fire proof vaults for its records, and for a brick Jail (just completed) with steel-clad cells.

Wake county bonds and script are at par, and the county finances are well managed.

The aggregate amount of taxes levied annually is about $98,000, $32,000 being for county expenses, and $27,000 for the State.

The aggregate value of the real and personal property of the county (as assessed for taxation) is $10,522,390.

POOR HOUSE, WORK HOUSE, &c.

The poor of Wake county are well cared for at the Parish Grove, six miles from the county seat. At the last report 72 persons were in this institution. These are fed, clothed, and furnished comfortable quarters and fuel at the county expense. The county physician attends on the sick and medicines are dispensed free. The county owns a farm of 500 acres at this point, 140 of which are in cultivation.

Persons convicted of minor offences, and who are unable to pay court costs, are sent to the County Work House to work out costs. Here they are mainly employed in cultivating the Poor House farm, cutting wood, working roads, repairing bridges, &c.

RAILROADS, &c.

The Raleigh & Gaston Railroad enters the county on the north side and runs to the centre. The Raleigh & Augusta Air-Line runs from the centre out through the southwest.

The North Carolina Railroad enters the county on the east side and runs entirely through to the west.

There are eleven railroad stations in the county.

POST OFFICES.

Postal facilities are good, there being thirty-five post offices in the county of Wake.

BUILDING STONES, &c.

There are a number of excellent quarries of granite in the county. In fact, this is found in nearly every township, while in Cedar Fork and Oak Grove townships we have brown stone of good quality, and in Barton's Creek there are large quantities of soapstone and serpentine.

In House's Creek township, four miles from Raleigh, there is a large deposit of plumbago.

MANUFACTURES, &c.

A large majority of the people of Wake county are engaged in agricultural pursuits, but we have a number of manufacturing establishments, prominent among which are the following:

There are sash, door and blind factories at Raleigh, Cary and Apex.

Railroad cars, wheels, &c., are manufactured at Raleigh.

Excellent qualities of news, book and wrapping paper are manufactured at the Falls of Neuse by W. F. Askew & Son.

Number one shoes are manufactured by W. H. Wetmore Raleigh.

Plows and castings are made at Forestville.

Saddles, Harness, &c., are manufactured by W. F. Wyatt, Raleigh.

Carriages and buggies are manufactured by Alfred Upchurch, and Thos. G. Jenkins, and T. B. Yancey, and Evans & Martin, Raleigh.

Wagons, carts, &c., are manufactured by J. Lewis & Co., Bowens and Thos. G. Jenkins.

Spokes, hubs and rims are manufactured by W. D. Williams, Raleigh.

Clothing, by Walker Bros., Raleigh.

Shingles and laths, J. D. Allen, Ferrell Bros., Len. H. Adams, Raleigh.

Wine, H. Mahler & Co., Raleigh.

Candy of all descriptions by Royster Brothers, Raleigh.

Tin, sheet iron and copper ware by J. C. Brewster & Co., J. C. S. Lumsden, and Julius Lewis & Co., Raleigh.

Ice is manufactured at Raleigh in large quantities and of excellent quality.

The Pioneer Manufacturing Company, Raleigh, is turning out large numbers of shuttle blocks, handles, &c.

Cotton gins are manufactured in the county by two or three companies.

A large company has been formed for the manufacture cotton seed oils.

Besides these, there are blacksmith shops, foundries and wood-working shops in nearly every portion of the county.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS, &c.

Among the prominent public buildings of Wake county, we mention the State Capitol, an elegant granite structure

on Union Square, costing $520,000; the United States Court House and Post Office at Raleigh, the finest building in North Carolina, costing $355,000; the Insane Asylum of North Carolina on Dix Hill, seventeen hundred and twenty feet long by eighty feet wide, and three stories high, costing $.....; the North Carolina Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind, on McDowell street, costing $.....; the North Carolina Penitentiary, on Harrison Avenue, costing $..... .....; the North Carolina Agricultural Department and Geological Museum, corner of Edenton and Halifax streets; Wake County Court House and Jail, on Fayetteville street; the Governor's Mansion, now in course of construction; Peace Institute, on Peace street; St. Mary's School on Hillsboro street, &c., &c.

TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

WAKE FOREST, on the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad, is the seat of a large and flourishing institution of learning, founded by the Baptists of North Carolina. It is a thriving village, with a good cotton market.

CARY, on the North Carolina and Raleigh & Augusta Air-Line Railroads, eight miles west of Raleigh, is a prosperous village, and noted for its enterprising business men, its manufactures, its excellent schools, its healthfulness and steady habits.

APEX, on the Raleigh & Augusta Air-Line Railroad, 14 miles from the county seat, is a thriving village, with several manufacturing establishments, three churches, a good academy and a number of stores.

HOLLY SPRINGS, in Buckhorn township, is a small and

prosperous village, with a post office, church, academy, and number of stores.

ROLESVILLE, is a village in Wake Forest township, four miles from the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad. It has three churches, a number of stores, two steam cotton gins and wood and blacksmith shops.

FORESTVILLE is a village on the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad, 14 miles from the county seat. It has a church, an academy, two stores and a plow factory.

MORRISVILLE, on the North Carolina Railroad, 12 miles from the county seat, has a flourishing female school, six stores, two churches, one steam gin, wood and blacksmith shops. Its population is about 150.

GARNER'S is a new and prosperous village, six miles east of Raleigh on the North Carolina Railroad.

OUR PEOPLE.

The citizens of Wake county have always been noted for their high regard for law and quiet. There is a sentiment abroad in the county that would cause any citizen to frown upon any attempt to disregard lawful authority. The morals are as good as can be found in any county with a population of 50,000.

In intelligence they stand as well as the average American citizen, and, in their general bearing they are not behind the people of some sections that make greater pretensions.

The races live together in perfect harmony, quietly pursue their daily avocations without the least fear of any molestation from any one, and are rapidly building up

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their shattered fortunes. There are no political troubles, every citizen, regardless of any race distinction, is left to exercise the right of suffrage as it may seem best to him.

While there are, of course, many violations of the criminal law of a minor character, there has been but one case of capital punishment in the county during the last decade.

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